

Message Text

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SUBJECT:PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT H.D.S. GREENWAY BYLINER WASHINGTON
POST WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1 HEADED "ISRAEL MAKES ITS MOVE IN
MIDEAST PEACE MANEUVERS."

2. JERUSALEM, NOVEMBER 30, FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS,
DOVE-LIKE SOUNDS HAVE COME FROM ISRAELI LEADERS PROFESSING
ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE
AND COEXISTENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. IN LARGE PART THESE SOUNDS, PURPOSEFULLY KEPT COSMIC
RATHER THAN SPECIFIC, ARE ONLY RETURN SALVOS IN THE PROPAGANDA
BOMBARDMENT THAT BEGAN EARLIER THIS MONTH WHEN EGYPT'S
PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT TOLD A VISITING U.S. CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION THAT HE WAS READY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH
ISRAEL.

4. THE NEW AND SEEMINGLY MODERATE STANCE OF THE ARABS
CAUGHT ISRAEL OFF GUARD AND IT AT FIRST WAS CRITICIZED BOTH
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AT HOME AND ABROAD FOR SEEMING TO RESPOND IN A NEGATIVE AND

STUBBORN WAY.

5. ISRAEL IS STILL DEEPLY MISTRUSTFUL OF ARAB INTENTIONS. BUT IT DID THEM NO GOOD TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF INTRANSIGENCE, AN IMAGE THAT ISRAEL HAS HAD REASON TO FEAR, AND PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN'S SPEECH IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, LAST WEEK SOUGHT TO DISPEL IT.

6. EDITORIAL OPINION HERE ON RABIN'S PROPOSAL OF A HELSINKI-TYPE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE. THE INDEPENDENT PAPER HAARETZ SAID, "IT WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO PUT FORWARD POSITIVE PROPOSALS RATHER THAN HAVE TO REPLY TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S SUGGESTIONS."

7. THE ISRAELI RESPONSE WAS ALSO AN INDICATION THAT THE SHAKY LABOR PARTY COALITION LED BY RABIN, WHICH FACES A GENERAL ELECTION LATE IN 1977, INTENDS TO PRESENT THE ELECTORATE WITH AN EMPHASIS ON PEACE EFFORTS.

8. ALTHOUGH ISRAEL IS WILLING TO CONSIDER AN END TO BELLIGERENCY IN LIEU OF A REAL PEACE, RABIN'S GENEVA PROPOSAL ILLUSTRATES THE DEEP FEELING IN THIS COUNTRY THAT THE ARAB WORLD MUST SHOW SOME REAL CHANGE OF HEART TOWARD ISRAEL BEFORE ANYTHING BUT MINOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS CAN BE CONSIDERED.

9. "THERE WAS AT HELSINKI," THE JERUSALEM POST EDITORIALIZED, "THE NOTION THAT PEACE IS NOT DEPENDENT UPON TERRITORIAL DEALS BUT RATHER UPON THE RELATIONS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN PEOPLES. HELSINKI, IN ENVISIONING EAST-WEST PEACE IN EUROPE, CONCEIVED OF PEACE ON THREE LEVELS: ADEQUATE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, OPEN EXCHANGE OF TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY AND FREE INTERCOURSE OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE VARIOUS BORDERS."

10. IT IS THIS SORT OF OPENING BETWEEN PEOPLES THAT ISRAEL WANTS IN ORDER TO LESSEN ITS ISOLATION IN THE REGION.

11. ISRAELIS PLACE GREATER IMPORTANCE ON WHAT THE ARABS
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TELL THEIR OWN PEOPLE THAN ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS FOR THE BENEFITS OF FOREIGNERS. THE DEEP HATRED FOR ISRAEL AND THE JEWS THAT IS TAUGHT TO SCHOOL CHILDREN IN MUCH OF THE ARAB WORLD, FOR EXAMPLE, LOOMS LARGE IN ISRAELI MINDS.

12. A WELL-KNOWN ISRAELI EXPERT ON THE ARAB WORLD SAID RECENTLY THAT HE WOULD LOOK TOWARD A "LOWERING OF THE LEVEL OF INVECTIVE" AGAINST ISRAEL AS BEING MORE

MEANINGFUL THAN ANY PROMISES.

13. AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF VIOLENT INVECTIVE AGAINST ISRAEL, ISRAELIS NOW FEEL THEY MUST HAVE EXPLICIT ARAB RECOGNITION FOR THE LEGITIMACY OF THE JEWISH STATE.

14. OF COURSE, AS ISRAEL UNDERSTANDS IT, SADAT IS NOT OFFERING A REAL PEACE WITH AN OPENING OF FRONTIERS, DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES AND ALL THE REST OF THE TRAPPINGS THAT ISRAEL DESIRES. SADAT IS OFFERING INSTEAD AN END TO THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY IN EXCHANGE FOR A RETURN TO THE PRE-1967 WAR BORDERS AND A MINISTATE FOR THE PALESTINIANS IN THE WEST BANK AND IN GAZA.

15. BUT ISRAEL IS NOT PREPARED TO RETURN TO THE PRE-1967 WAR BORDERS, "NOT EVEN FOR PEACE," AS ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL SAID RECENTLY.

16. IT IS NOT CONCEIVABLE THAT ANY ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO GIVE UP EAST JERUSALEM, FOR EXAMPLE, AND YET MANY ARABS CONSIDER EAST JERUSALEM PIVOTAL TO ANY PEACE ARRANGEMENT.

17. ONLY A LITTLE LESS INCONCEIVABLE IS THE SUGGESTION THAT ISRAEL WILL WITHDRAW FROM THE STRING OF JEWISH SETTLEMENTS THAT LINE THE JORDAN RIVER VALLEY AND DOT THE HILLS AROUND THE TOWNS NEAR JERUSALEM. THE LAND CONFISCATIONS FROM WEST BANK ARABS CONTINUE AND, DESPITE ISRAELI ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY, THE JEWISH SETTLEMENTS CONTINUE TO EXPAND.

18. IT IS EQUALLY HARD TO EMAGINE THAT THE ARABS WOULD ACCEPT A MINISTATE THAT EXCLUDED BOTH EAST JERUSALEM AND

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THE LAND TAKEN BY THE JEWISH SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK.

19. THUS ISRAELIS SAY THAT IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO HAVE ANY SUCCESS THEY MUST BE AT LEAST DE FACTO STEP-BY-STEP ARRANGEMENTS. "ANY NEGOTIATION THAT BEGAN WITH JERUSALEM WOULD BE A FORMULA FOR FAILURE," AN ISRAELI OFFICIAL SAID.

20. "WE FEEL THAT THE ACID TEST WILL BE THE WILLINGNESS OF THE ARABS TO MEET TERMS," SAID ONE OF ISRAEL'S LEADING ARABISTS.

21. THERE IS A DANGER, IN THE MINDS OF SOME ISRAELIS, THAT ISRAEL HAS BECOME SO SUPICIOUS OF THE ARABS THAT THEY WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE BEGINNINGS OF A GENUINE CHANGE OF ARAB ATTITUDE WHEN IT CAME. THERE IS ALSO A

DANGER THAT BY INSISTING ON A GENUINE CHANGE OF HEART THE ISRAELIS WILL PASS UP THE KIND OF MODUS VIVENDI THAT EVEN SWORN ENEMIES CAN SOMETIMES ACHIEVE.

22. BUT AN ARAB WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE, WHETHER IT BE ONLY A TACTIC OR A GENUINE CHANGE OF MIND, IS HAVING ITS EFFECT.

23. A PROMINENT WEST BANK COUNCILMAN SAID IN AN INTERVIEW RECENTLY, "FOR YEARS WE PALESTINIANS HAVE ALWAYS SAID NO TO EVERYTHING. NOW WE ARE SAYING YES AND THE ISRAELIS ARE SAYING NO." THIS IS PRECISELY THE SITUATION THAT, IN RECENT DAYS, ISRAEL POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO AVOID. (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

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